GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10807/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	From 31/03/2025 to 31/03/2030

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of installing renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 154 on Deposited Plan 240326 (Crown Reserve 15815)
Lot 600 on Deposited Plan 424411 (Crown Reserve 54360)
Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 409999
Lot 297 on Deposited Plan 33387
Lot 298 on Deposited Plan 33387
Landor-Meekatharra road reserve (PIN 11725539)
Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 54361)
Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 6201)
Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 6201)
Lot 256 on Deposited Plan 38688 (Crown Reserve 9688)
Yalgoo North road reserve (PIN 11743799)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1665193)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11420514)
Shamrock road reserve (PIN 11420505)
Lot 212 on Deposited Plan 33464
Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 10898)
Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 54468)
Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 10898)
Lot 900 on Deposited Plan 410009 (Crown Reserve 14385)
Lot 282 on Deposited Plan 130519 (Crown Reserve 5233)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11426269)
Rowe Street road reserve (PIN 11426264)
Griffith Street road reserve (PIN 11426252)
Unallocated crown land (PIN 1111863)

Unallocated crown land (PIN 1010800)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194928)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194929)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194913)
Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 427611 (Crown Reserve 54547)
Unnamed road reserve (PIN 12763130)

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 42.6 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 31 March 2030.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

(a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;

(b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and

(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

(a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;

(b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared;

(c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner toward adjacent *native vegetation* to allow a reasonable time for fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

8. Flora and vegetation management – demarcation of clearing area

Prior to undertaking any clearing authorized by this permit, the permit holder must demarcate the clearing area within the areas crosshatched yellow in Figure 1 to 4 of Schedule 1.

9. Water and land resources management

(a) The permit holder must not clear more than 0.11 hectares of *native vegetation* growing in association of a *watercourse* or *drainage line* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 4 of Schedule 1.

(b) Where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

(c) The permit holder must commence the construction of renewable energy infrastructure within three (3) months of authorised clearing.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) the date(s) that infrastructure construction(s) were commenced. (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5; and (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6; (h) actions taken to maintain the existing surface flow or reinstate the surface flow downstream into existing natural *drainage lines* in accordance with condition 9. (i) actions taken to demarcate the clearing areas in accordance with condition 8

11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 10 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
drainage line/s	means a natural depression that carries surface water runoff.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
watercourse	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

Kassey Truesdale
A / Executive Director
GREEN ENERGY

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986
4 March 2025

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4).

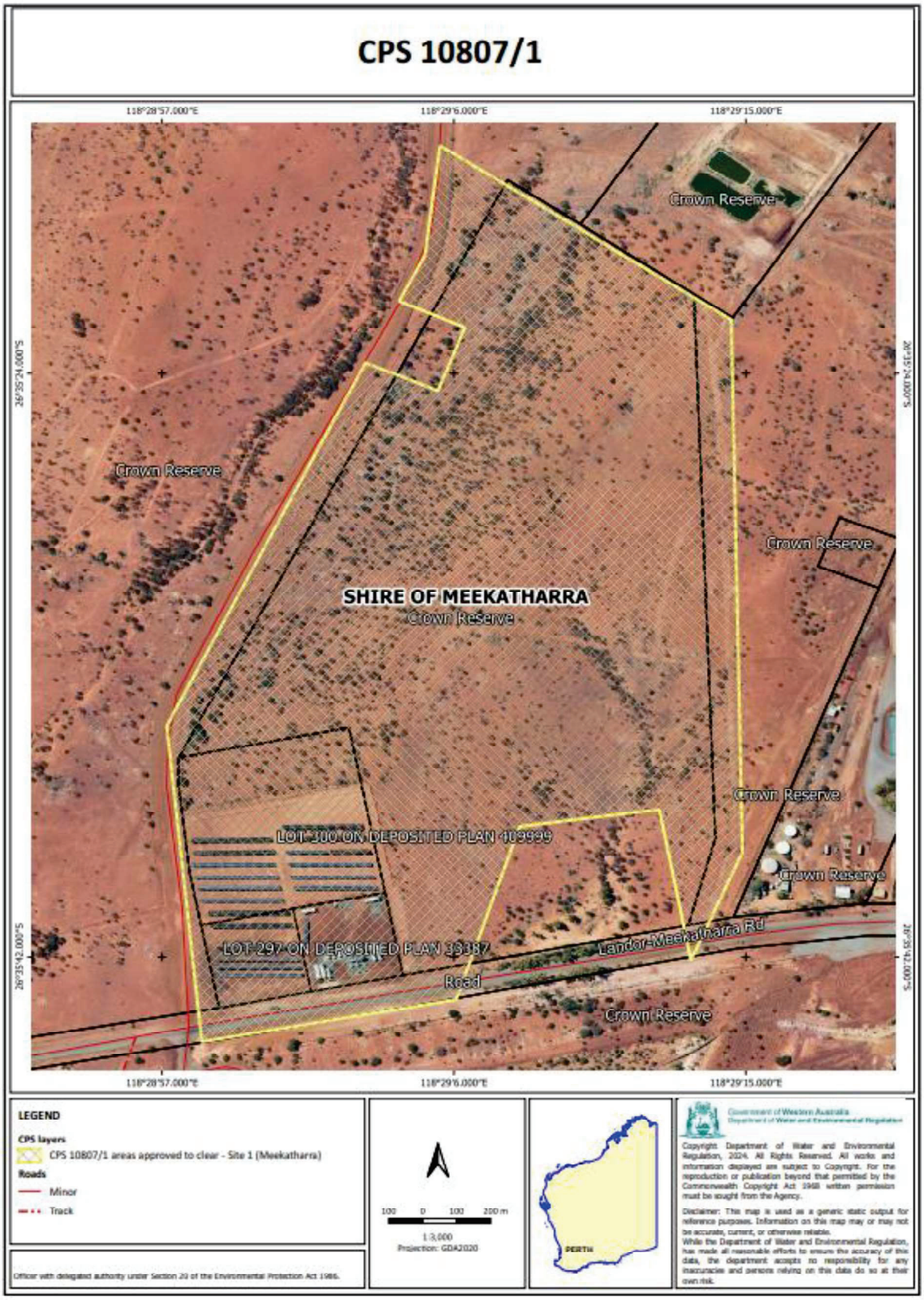

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur – Site 1 (Meekatharra)

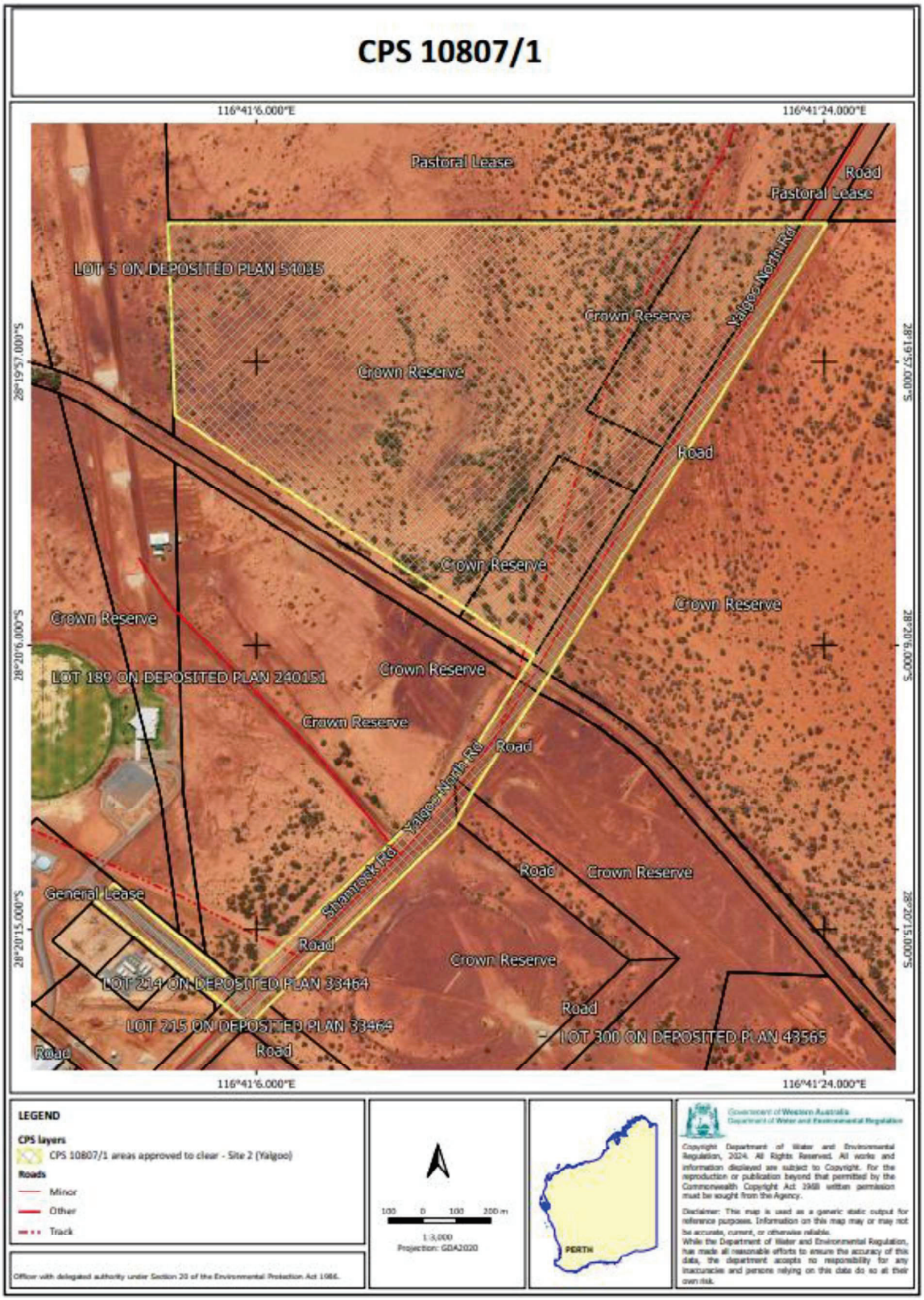

Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur – Site 2 (Yalgoo)

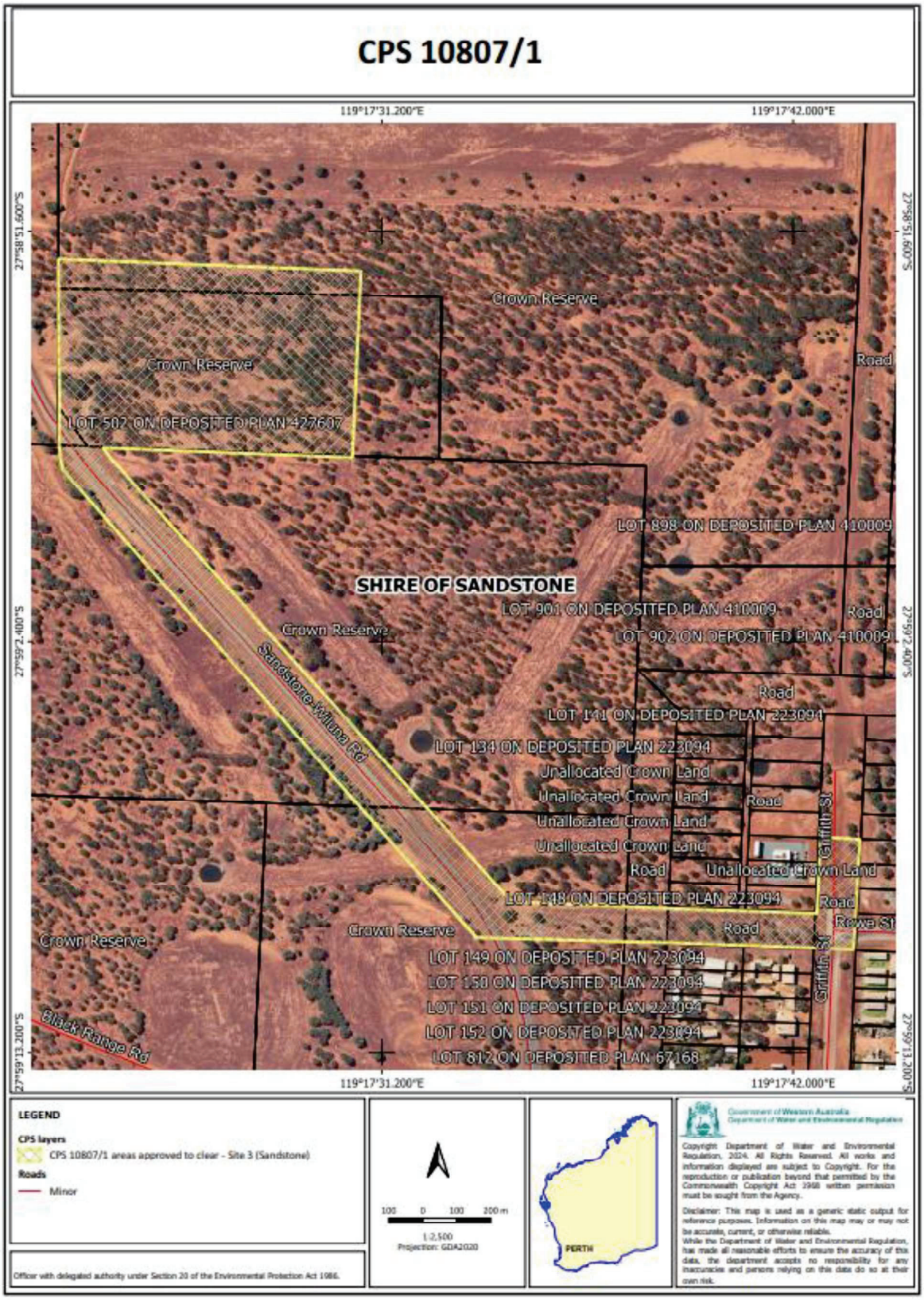

Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur – Site 3 (Sandstone)

Figure 4: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur – Site 4 (Wiluna)

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10807/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Application received:	17 October 2024
Application area:	42.6 hectares (ha) of native vegetation in a 56.7 ha footprint
Purpose of clearing:	Installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical clearing
Property:	Lot 154 on Deposited Plan 240326 (Crown Reserve 15815) Lot 600 on Deposited Plan 424411 (Crown Reserve 54360) Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 409999 Lot 297 on Deposited Plan 33387 Lot 298 on Deposited Plan 33387 Landor-Meekatharra road reserve (PIN 11725539) Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 54361) Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 6201) Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 424412 (Crown Reserve 6201) Lot 256 on Deposited Plan 38688 (Crown Reserve 9688) Yalgoo North road reserve (PIN 11743799) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1665193) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11420514) Shamrock road reserve (PIN 11420505) Lot 212 on Deposited Plan 33464 Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 10898) Lot 500 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 54468) Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 427607 (Crown Reserve 10898) Lot 900 on Deposited Plan 410009 (Crown Reserve 14385)

	Lot 282 on Deposited Plan 130519 (Crown Reserve 5233) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11426269) Rowe Street road reserve (PIN 11426264) Griffith Street road reserve (PIN 11426252) Unallocated crown land (PIN 1111863) Unallocated crown land (PIN 1010800) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194928) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194929) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 1194913) Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 427611 (Crown Reserve 54547) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 12763130)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shires of Meekatharra, Yalgoo, Sandstone, and Wiluna
Colloquial Name:	Midwest Towns Renewable Infrastructure Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power (Horizon Power) proposes to clear up to 42.6 hectares of native vegetation in a total footprint of 56.7 hectares (ha) distributed across four separate areas (see Figures 1-4, Section 1.5):

- Site 1 (Meekatharra) – clearing of 14.6 ha of native vegetation in a 26.6 ha footprint
- Site 2 (Yalgoo) – clearing of 14.7 ha of native vegetation in a 16.8 ha footprint
- Site 3 (Sandstone) – clearing of 5.9 ha of native vegetation in a 5.9 ha footprint
- Site 4 (Wiluna) – clearing of 7.4 ha of native vegetation in a 7.4 ha footprint.

The clearing is for the purpose of installing renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	4 March 2025
Decision area:	42.6 hectares of native vegetation in a 56.7 ha footprint, as depicted in Section 1.5 below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 14 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), the findings of flora and vegetation surveys and other supporting information provided by the applicant (see Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values
- impacts to watercourses and associated riparian vegetation
- land degradation in the form of soil erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- staged clearing to minimise erosion
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- commence construction of the renewable energy infrastructure and associated facilities within 2 months of authorised clearing.

1.5. Site maps

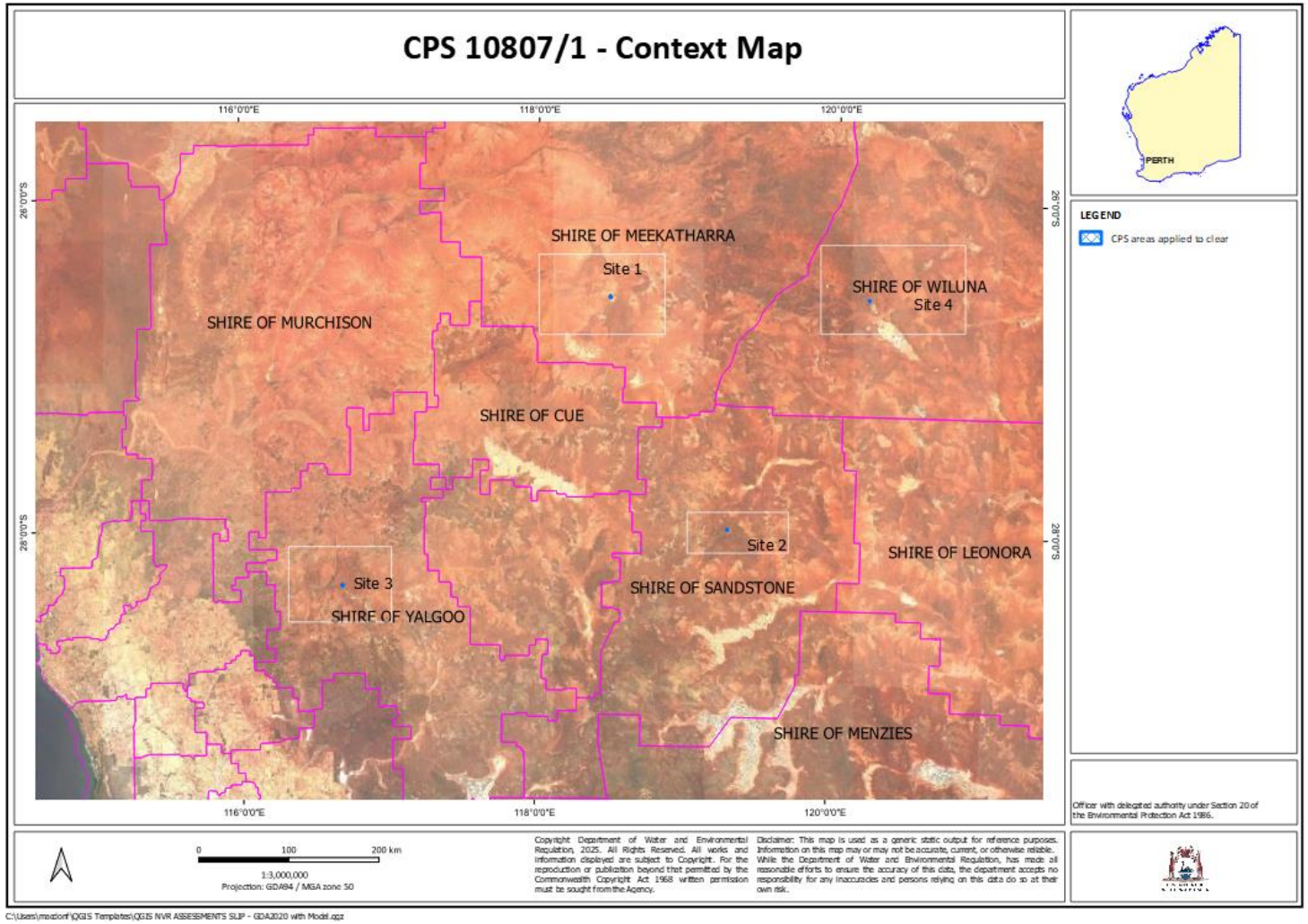

Figure 1. Application areas - Context map

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

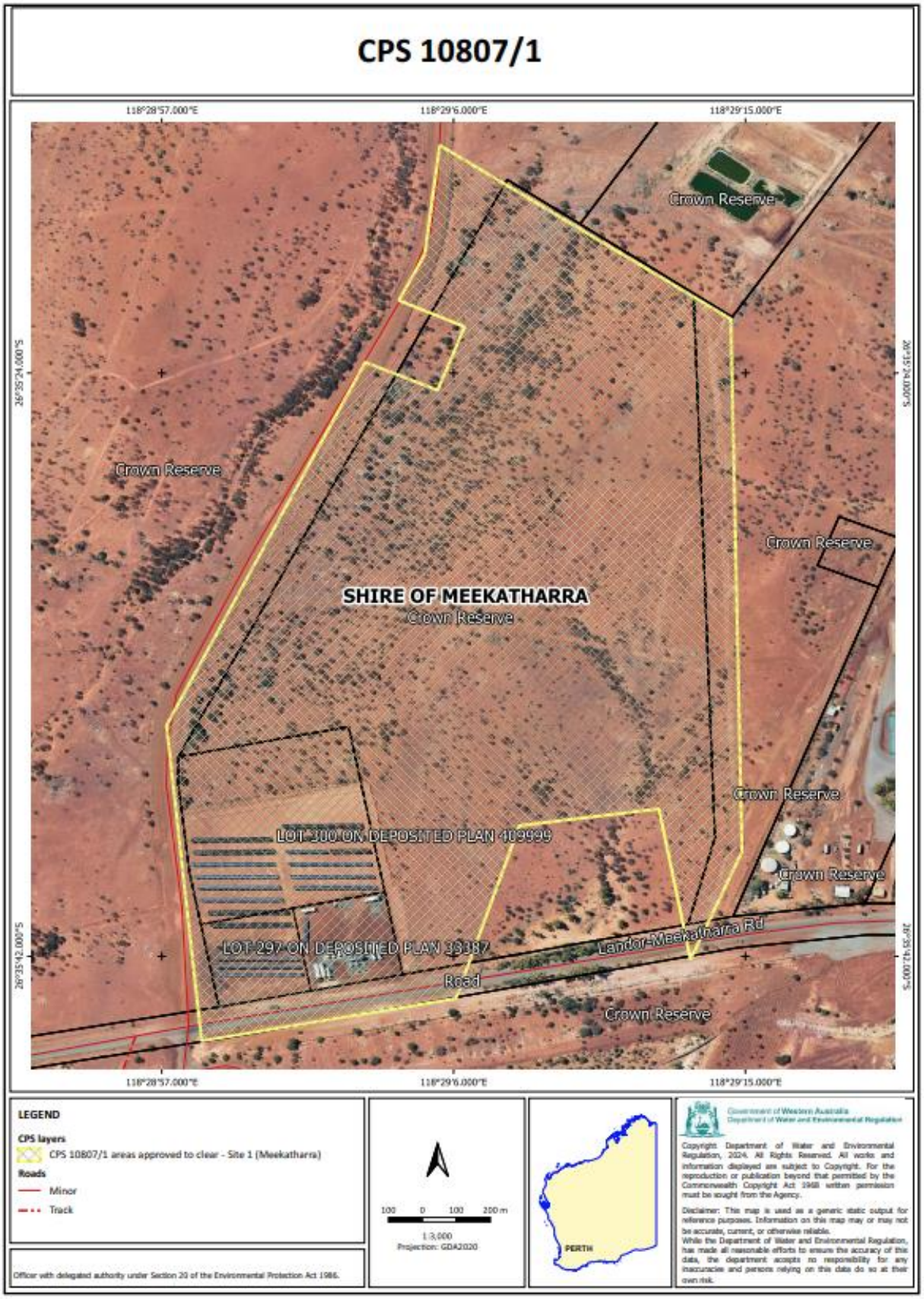

Figure 2. Site 1 (Meekatharra): Map of the application area

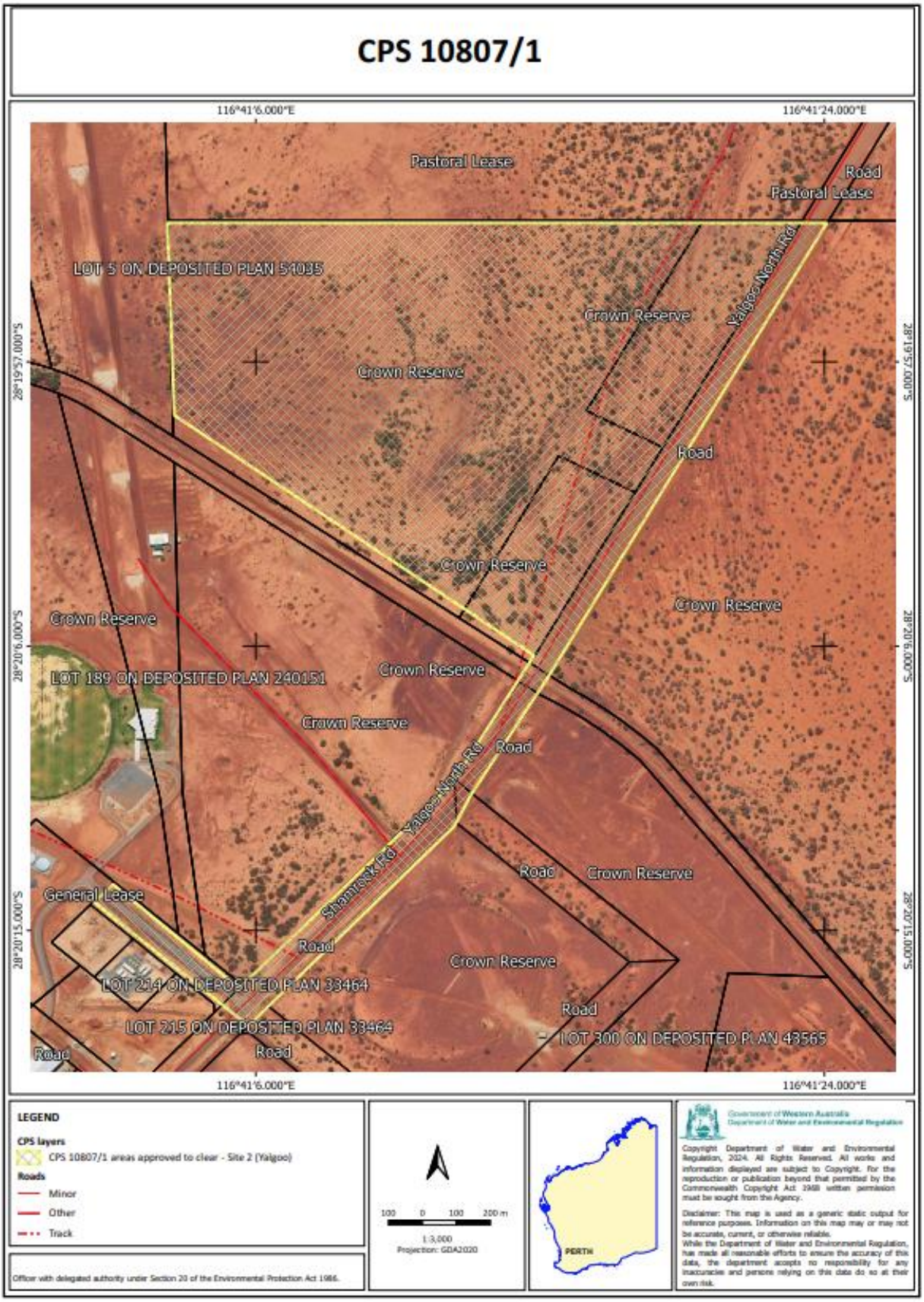

Figure 3. Site 2 (Yalgoo): Map of the application area

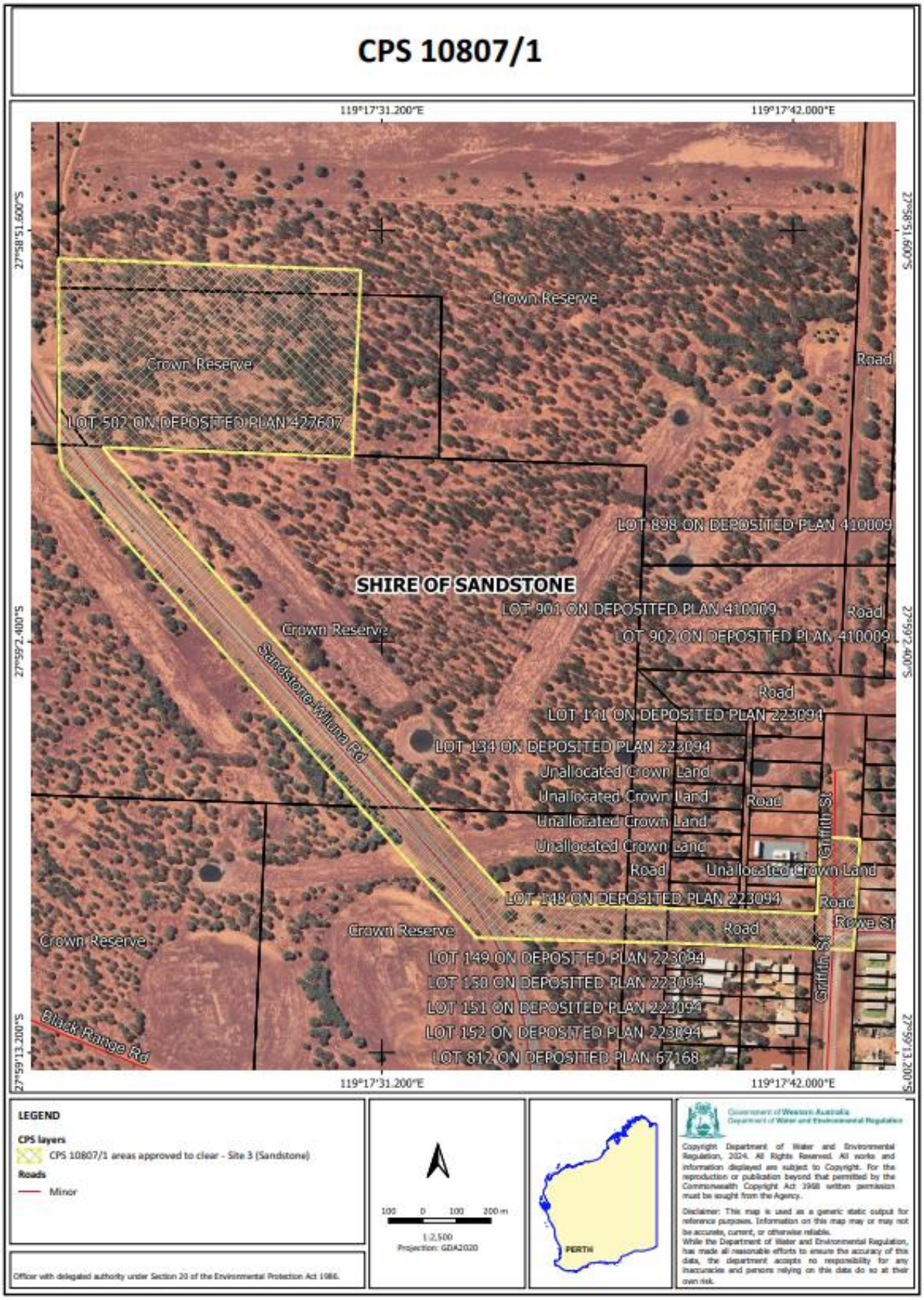

Figure 4. Site 3 (Sandstone): Map of the application area

Figure 5. Site 4 (Wiluna): Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the polluter pays principle
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has implemented several avoidance measures to reduce the extent of potential impacts, including:

- excluding vegetation type VT07 from the Site 1 (Meekatharra) application area, as it is associated with drainage areas
- exclusion of a registered heritage place from the Site 1 (Meekatharra) application area.

The applicant has also developed a Clearing Environmental Management Plan (Horizon Power, 2024a) for the clearing and has outlined several mitigation measures that will be implemented:

- clearing areas will be clearly demarcated prior to clearing commencing
- where possible, pre-existing access tracks will be used, and assets and access tracks will be placed on existing cleared locations
- areas of degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared areas will be preferentially selected for the location of test pits and laydown areas
- standard weed and hygiene management practices will be applied
- clearing will be undertaken slowly and in a one-way direction to allow fauna to move offsite

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene, staged clearing, erosion, and fauna management conditions.

3.2.1. Biological values – biodiversity – flora – ecological communities - Clearing Principles (a), (c) and (d)

<u>Assessment</u>

<u>Flora</u>

The four patches of vegetation proposed to be cleared are distributed across two IBRA Vegetation regions; the Yalgoo and Murchison Regions, which retain more than 90 percent of their original native vegetation extent. The regions are largely under-surveyed, with vegetation types mapped to the association levels. An analysis of herbarium records available to the department indicated the occurrence of several conservation significant flora within a 30 km radius of each site (see Appendix A.2), however, it is noted that the records are limited and not current. Given the soil vegetation types of the application areas, of the recorded conservation significant flora, five

Priority flora species are considered likely to occur in the application areas, specifically at Site 1 (Meekathara) and Site 4 (Wiluna). Records indicate that the flora species flower between July and November.

The applicant commissioned GHD (GHD, 2023a; 2023b) to perform flora and vegetation surveys over the application area in September 2023 for Site 2 (Yalgoo), and in April and May 2023 for Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 3 (Sandstone), and Site 4 (Wiluna). The surveys did not identify any Threatened or Priority flora species in all four Sites applied to be cleared. GHD, however, acknowledged that the surveys undertaken in April and May 2023 were carried out outside of the recorded flowering seasons of the conservation significant flora. The surveys, however, indicated that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is mostly in Very Good to Excellent conditions (Keighery, 1994; Trudgen, 1991) except for at Site 1 (Meekatharra), where the condition is Good and affected by weeds (GHD, 2023a; Trudgen, 1991).

Noting the type and condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, the limited available records of the species, and the timing of the survey being outside of their flowering seasons, it is considered that the occurrence of the conservation significant flora in the application areas cannot be ruled out. Further assessment of the potential impacts of clearing on the conservation significant flora species have been undertaken.

Euploca mitchellii (Priority 1)

E. mitchelii have been recorded in the Murchison IBRA Region. There are four recorded populations of *E. mitchellii*, however, the size of each population was unkown (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The closest record is located 16 kilometres from Site 1 (Meekatharra) which had similar vegetation and soils to the application areas. No other records are available from within 50 km radius of the other Sites. The department notes that the existing records of *E. mitchellii* were all collected between 1957 and 1982 (WA Herbarium, 1998-) and that due to the lack of existing records, the most current status of the species is unknown. The survey (GHD, 2023b) did not identify the flora species in any of the 4 sites proposed to be cleared. The timing of survey at Site 1 being outside of the known flowering seasons and the similarity of vegetation and soils are noted. However, given the distance between the records and the application areas, the vegetation condition of the surrounding areas that are mostly in Very Good and Excellent condition (Trudgen, 1991), inadvertent removal of individual that may be present at the time of clearing is considered unlikely to significantly impact the flora species conservation at the local or regional scales. Demarcating the clearing areas can minimise and mitigate the potential impact of clearing this flora species from adjacent vegetation. This is placed as a condition to the permit.

Calandrinia mirabilis (Priority 1)

C. mirabilis have been recorded in two IBRA Bioregions, namely the Murchison and Gascoyne. The closest record of *C. mirabilis* is 0.3 kilometres from Site 4 (Wiluna). There are seven known populations of *C. mirabilis*, one of which is recorded to contain over 50 individuals (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Aside from one record located 0.3 kilometres away from the site, the known populations of *C. mirabilis* are located over 400 kilometres away from Site 4 (Wiluna) (WA Herbarium, 1998). The department notes that the nearby record of *C. mirabilis* was collected in 1970, and there are no other records of the species within 400 kilometres of this record (GIS Database). Although the occurrence of this flora species in the application area and surrounds, especially at Site 4 (Wiluna), cannot be ruled out, noting the above it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species at a regional scale. Inadvertent clearing of the species, especially at Site 4 (Wiluna) and surrounds can be mitigated by demarcating the clearing area and this is required as a condition to the permit.

Ptilotus luteolus (Priority 3)

P. luteolus is described as shrubs or perennial herbs, with single, more or less erect stems, persistently hairy, with dendritic hairs. It is distributed in the Eremaean Botanical Region within the Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA Regions. The closest records of this species to the application area is approximately 8 kilometres from Site 1 (Meekatharra) and 2.3 kilometres from Site 4 (Wiluna), which contain similar vegetation but different soil types to the proposed clearing area. The flora species is widely distributed and known from multiple locations, most of which are over 100 kilometres away from Site 1 (Meekatharra), with 20 recorded populations and over 550 counted individuals across these populations (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Noting the above, the impact of the proposed clearing to *P. luteolus*, if they occur in the application areas and surrounds, is unlikely to be significant within the regional or local contexts. Inadvertent clearing of individuals that may be present at clearing is unlikely to affect the conservation status of this species. Demarcating the clearing areas can further minimise and mitigate potential impacts on the species.

Menkea draboides (Priority 3)

The habitat features and vegetation sites at Site 1 (Meekatharra) are recorded as being suitable for *M. draboides,* however the soil type at the site is not. There are eight known populations of *M. draboides*, one of which is recorded to contain 100 individuals (WA Herbarium, 1998-); this population is located over 300 kilometres away from the site (GIS Database). There is only one recorded population of *M. draboides* closer to Site 1 (Meekatharra), located approximately 7.9 kilometres away. The proposed clearing at Site 1 (Meekatharra) is unlikely to significantly impact *M. draboides*, if present within the site.

Drummondita miniata (Priority 3)

The closest recorded Priority 3 flora species (*D. miniata*) to Site 1 (Meekatharra) is located 0.7 kilometres from the site, online mapping data indicates that suitable habitat features, vegetation and soils for this species are located within the site (GIS Database). There are 25 recorded populations of *D. miniata*, encompassing over 1,700 individuals (WA Herbarium, 1998-), most of which are located at least 50 kilometres away from the site (GIS Database). The proposed clearing at Site 1 (Meekatharra) is unlikely to significantly impact *D. miniata*, if present within the site.

Threatened Ecological Communities

No TECs listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) listed by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) are recorded within Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 3 (Sandstone) and Site 4 (Wiluna) of the application area. However, the northernmost part of the Site 2 (Yalgoo) application area is mapped within the Yalgoo vegetation complexes (banded ironstone foundation) TEC. Surveys performed over the application area, however, indicated that the vegetation and landforms within Site 2 (Yalgoo) are not representative of this TEC (GHD, 2023a). Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to directly impact any TEC.

Surveys over the application areas have identified the presence of weeds species, particularly *Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Rumex vesicarius* at Site 1 (Meekatharra) (GHD, 2023b). Although they are not listed as Declared Pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act* (BAM Act) or as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), the weed species pose risks to the vastly vegetated regions of Murchison and Yalgoo. As discussed above, the proposed clearing may not have significant direct impact to the conservation significant flora and TEC in the area. However, clearing may introduce and spread weeds to adjacent vegetation which can reduce the quality of the TEC and vegetation and their habitat values. A stringent weed control and management may minimise and mitigate this potential indirect impact. This is required as a condition to the permit.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to have direct impact on conservation significant flora and vegetation in the application areas and surrounds. However, clearing may introduce and spread weeds to adjacent vegetation which may reduce the quality and habitat values of the adjacent native vegetation unless appropriate weed management and control measures are in place.

Conditions

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the indirect impacts of the proposed clearing on flora and vegetation nearby can be managed through the implementation of the following conditions to the permit:

- Demarcation of clearing area
- Weed control and management.

3.2.2. Land and water resources – watercourses and surface water quality – Clearing Principles (f) and (i)

Assessment

A minor non-perennial drainage line intersects Site 4 (Wiluna), the drainage line flows south towards Lake Violet, approximately 5.3 kilometres south of Site 4 (Wiluna). Disturbance of this drainage line may impact on the surface water quality at the site and associated vegetation. Up to 0.11 hectares of riparian vegetation around this drainage line is proposed to be cleared to establish a 4-metre wide access track for the site and one pole pad. To avoid and mitigate the potential impact of clearing, the applicant is committed to positioning the pole pad away from riparian vegetation within the drainage line. The applicant also avoided clearing of a patch of vegetation identified as riparian vegetation. It is also noted that the disturbance is likely to be temporary.

Clearing of native vegetation can remove groundcover which may expose lose soils to the rain and wind that could exacerbate the risks of water and wind erosion. Given the limited extent and temporary nature of the proposed clearing, however, it is unlikely to result in appreciable and long-term degradation of the land resources. Limiting the time of exposure of the bare ground to the rain and wind can further mitigate the potential risk.

Noting the nature of the perennial waterline, the distance between the line and other major waterbodies in the areas, the limited extent of clearing around the waterline, the temporary nature of impact, and the applicant commitment to avoid clearing of riparian vegetation, the Delegated Officer considered it unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in appreciable and long term degradation of the surface water, riparian vegetation and land resources at the local and regional levels. A condition is placed on the permit to further mitigate the potential impact.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to result in long term and appreciable degradation of water and land resources. The application of water and land management measures can mitigate the potential impacts identified above. This is required as conditions to the permit.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- Construction of the renewable energy infrastructure within two months of authorised clearing
- A watercourse management condition to either maintain the existing surface flow, if possible, or alternatively reinstate the surface water flow downstream into existing natural drainage lines.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The proposed project is situated within properties that include vested and unvested crown lands, reserves and freehold lands. Horizon will utilise the access conferred by Sections 46 and 49 of the Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979 (the Act) for geotechnical investigations and connection infrastructure. The sites are partly under a Management Order to Horizon Power, these areas no not include the road reserves.

The application areas are zoned Parks and Recreation, District Distributor Road (Sandstone), Pasture and Mining, Open Space and no zoning (Wiluna), Rural/mining, public purpose, recreation (Yalgoo) and no zoning Meekatharra. The purpose of the clearing is to facilitate the installation of renewable energy infrastructure which would be consistent with the public purpose zoning of the Yalgoo site.

The application areas lie within the East Murchison and Gascoyne groundwater areas proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RiWI Act). The project, however, will not intercept the groundwater. Additionally, Horizon power is permitted to access water under Section 42 & 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979*. Licences required for construction water will be obtained by the construction contractors.

The Department has requested comments regarding the proposed clearing from the Shire of Meekatharra, Shire of Sandstone, Shire of Wiluna and Shire of Yalgoo. No response has been provided by the Shires.

The Department notified the representatives of the Native Title Holders of the application areas, namely Wiluna People (Wiluna) and the Yamatji Nation (Yalgoo) regarding the proposed clearing. The representative of the Yugunga-Nya Native Title Aboriginal Corporation stated that the proposed clearing did not affect their determined area. No response from the Wiluna People was received.

A registered Aboriginal heritage site has been mapped within the Site 4 (Wiluna) application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no registered Aboriginal heritage sites are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The areas proposed to be cleared are part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. They are surrounded by large areas of uncleared land. The application areas fall within the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) regions of Yalgoo and Murchison, which retain more than 90 percent of its original native vegetation cover.

Spatial data indicates the local areas (30 kilometre (km) radius from the centre of the areas proposed to be cleared) near Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 3 (Sandstone), and Site 4 (Wiluna) retain approximately 95 per cent of the original native vegetation cover (Murchison IBRA region).

Spatial data indicates the local area (30 km radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) near Site 2 (Yalgoo) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover (Yalgoo IBRA region).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>The application areas are not considered significant ecological linkages. Most of the vegetation immediately surrounding the application areas and the majority of the region remains uncleared.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The application areas are not located within any conservation areas. The nearest legislated conservation areas to each application area are:
• Site 1 (Meekatharra): Conservation Covenant 050243V01M0R, located 89 km to the southwest
• Site 2 (Yalgoo): Dalgaranga National Park, located 35 km to the northeast
• Site 3 (Sandstone): Wanjarri Nature Reserve located 144 km to the northeast
• Site 4 (Wiluna): Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park, located 87km to the northeast</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>• The mapped vegetation types within the application area are the following Site 1 (Meekatharra): low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland consisting of Acacia aneura and associated species (Upper Murchison 18)
• Site 2 (Yalgoo): scrub with open woodland or scattered trees consisting of wattle with York gum, casuarina, mulga Acacia spp. with Eucalyptus loxophleba, Allocasurarina spp. Acacia aneura (Yalgoo 361)
• Site 3 (Sandstone): low woodland or open low woodland/bluebush and saltbush (Wiluna 2121)
• Site 4 (Wiluna): low woodland, open woodland or sparse woodland consisting of Acacia aneura and associated species (Wiluna 28)

Flora and vegetation surveys in each of the application areas were undertaken by GHD in 2023 (GHD, 2023a; 2023b).

GHD identified a total of two vegetation types within the Site 1 (Meekatharra) survey area (GHD, 2023a):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation type</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>VT06</td><td>Acacia incurvaneura and Acacia pteraneura open woodland over Eremophila citrina, Eremophila latrobei subsp. latrobei, Solanum lasiophyllum and Maireana planifolia isolated clumps of shrubs on orange clay-loam on low rocky rises.</td></tr>
<tr><td>VT07</td><td>Eucalyptus victrix and Eucalyptus camaldulensis open woodland over Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia victoriae and Eremophila longifolia open shrubland over, *Cenchrus ciliaris and Peplidium sp. isolated clumps of forbs and grasses on brown sandy-clay-loam within drainage areas.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
GHD identified one vegetation type within the Site 2 (Yalgoo) survey area (GHD, 2023b):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation type</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>VT16 – Acacia tall open shrubland</td><td>Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia acuminata and Eremophila platycalyx tall open shrubland to scattered tall shrubs over Eremophila fraseri, Senna sp. Meekatharra and Eremophila deserti scattered shrubs over Ptilotus spp., Sclerolaena eriacantha and Maireana spp. scattered low shrubs on stony plain/broad drainage area.</td></tr>
</table>
GHD identified one vegetation type within the Site 3 (Sandstone) survey area (GHD, 2023a):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation type</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>VT10</td><td>Acacia aneura, Acacia mulganeura and Acacia incurvaneura mulga woodland over Cryptandra connata and Eremophila margarethae isolated shrubs over, Poaceae sp. and Chenopodiaceae sp. isolated clumps of sterile chenopods and grasses on orange clay loam, flat plains.</td></tr>
</table>
GHD identified a total of two vegetation types within the Site 4 (Wiluna) survey area (GHD, 2023a):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation type</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>VT11</td><td>Acacia pruinocarpa and Acacia pteraneura (± Acacia aneura x Acacia craspedocarpa) woodland over Ptilotus obovatus and Lepidium platpetalum isolated shrubs over, Dysphania kalpari, Sclerolaena eriacantha and Dactyloctenium radulans on orange, sandy-clay-loam within minor drainage lines.</td></tr>
<tr><td>VT12</td><td>Acacia aptaneura, Acacia pteraneura and Acacia pruinocarpa (± Acacia aneura x Acacia craspedocarpa) woodland over Grevillea sarissa subsp. succincta and Eremophila margarethae isolated shrubs on orange clay-loam, rocky rises.</td></tr>
</table>
The identified vegetation types at Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 2 (Yalgoo) and Site 3 (Sandstone) are inconsistent with the mapped vegetation characteristics.

The identified vegetation types at Site 4 are consistent with the mapped vegetation characteristics.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>
The survey undertaken by GHD determined the vegetation at the Site 1 (Meekatharra) survey area to be in the following condition (GHD, 2023a; Trudgen, 1991):
<table>
<tr><th>Condition</th><th>Extent in survey area (ha)</th><th>Extent in survey area (%)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>24.77</td><td>84.38</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>4.58</td><td>15.62</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>29.35</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>
The survey undertaken by GHD determined the vegetation at the Site 2 (Yalgoo) survey area to be in the following condition (GHD, 2023b; Keighery, 1994):
<table>
<tr><th>Condition</th><th>Extent in survey area (ha)</th><th>Extent in survey area (%)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Very good</td><td>14.2</td><td>81.6</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>3.2</td><td>18.4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>17.4</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
The survey undertaken by GHD determined the vegetation at the Site 3 (Sandstone) survey area to be in the following condition (GHD, 2023a; Trudgen, 1991):
<table>
<tr><th>Condition</th><th>Extent in survey area (ha)</th><th>Extent in survey area (%)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Excellent</td><td>3.63</td><td>61.56</td></tr>
<tr><td>Very good</td><td>0.56</td><td>9.55</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>0.01</td><td>0.24</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>1.69</td><td>28.65</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>5.90</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>
The survey undertaken by GHD determined the vegetation at the Site 4 (Wiluna) survey area to be in the following condition (GHD, 2023a; Trudgen, 1991):
<table>
<tr><th>Condition</th><th>Extent in survey area (ha)</th><th>Extent in survey area (%)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Very good</td><td>11.98</td><td>75.01</td></tr>
<tr><td>Good</td><td>3.07</td><td>19.25</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cleared</td><td>0.92</td><td>5.74</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total</td><td>15.98</td><td>100.00</td></tr>
</table>
The full Keighery (1994) and Trudgen (1991) condition rating scales are provided in Appendix C.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The climate of the region the project is located in is characterised by hot dry summers and cold winters, receiving approximately 232-260 millimetres of rainfall each year (Bureau of Meteorology, 2024).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>
The land systems within the application areas are mapped as the following (DPIRD, 2024; Tille, 2006):
<table>
<tr><th>Site</th><th>Land system</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Site 1 (Meekatharra)</td><td>272Wi – Wiluna System</td><td rowspan="2">Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other Acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Site 4 (Wiluna)</td><td>279Wi – Wiluna System</td></tr>
<tr><td>Site 2 (Yalgoo)</td><td>270 – Violet System</td><td>Hills and ranges, sandy plains, hardpan wash plains, stony plains and salt lakes (with some mesas and plains) on greenstone and granitic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton. Red shallow loams, red loamy earths, red deep sands and salt lake soils with some red shallow sands, stony soils and red shallow sandy duplexes. Bowgada-mulga-jam woodlands (with some halophytic shrublands and York gum-salmon gum woodlands).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Site 3 (Sandstone)</td><td>279Vi – Violet System</td><td>Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands.</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>Site 1 (Meekatharra) and Site 4 (Wiluna) are located in the Wiluna land system. Soils in the Wiluna land system are not generally susceptible to erosion due to the stony nature</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	of the land, however disturbance of the stony mantle, particularly on sloping areas, can result in erosion (Payne et al., 1987; Horizon Power, 2024b). The topography at Site 1 (Meekatharra) is relatively flat at approximately 520 m Australian Height Datum (AHD) (GIS Database). The topography at Site 4 (Wiluna) ranges from approximately 515-520 m AHD (GIS Database). A drainage line intersects Site 4 (Wiluna) (GIS Database) and may be prone to erosion if vegetation cover is removed. Advice from the department's Contaminated Sites Branch (CSB) stated that evidence of contamination at Site 4 (Wiluna) was limited and that soil and groundwater quality was unknown (DWER, 2025). Site 2 (Yalgoo) and Site 3 (Sandstone) are in the Violet land system. Abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion across most of the Violet land system, except where the surface has been disturbed, after which it becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion (Payne et al., 1987; Horizon Power, 2024b). There are no mapped surface water lines within the Site 2 (Yalgoo) and Site 3 (Sandstone) application areas, and they are not mapped as being within areas prone to flooding (GIS Database).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment indicated that there is one minor, non-perennial watercourse intersecting the Site 4 (Wiluna) application area.
Hydrogeography	Site 2 (Yalgoo) is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area (GIS Database). Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 3 (Sandstone), and Site 4 (Wiluna) are located within the Murchison Groundwater Area (GIS Database). The salinity of groundwater in the application areas varies (GIS Database): • Site 1 (Meekatharra) and Site 3 (Sandstone): 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre of total dissolved solids (TDS) • Site 2 (Yalgoo): 3,000-7,000 milligrams per litre of TDS • Site 4 (Wiluna): 500-1,000 milligrams per litre of TDS.
Flora	Site 1 (Meekatharra) • There are records of 12 threatened and priority flora species within a 30 km radius of the application area, eight of which are found on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) • The nearest recorded threated or priority flora species to the application area is *Indigofera rotula*, a Priority 3 species, located approximately 480 m to the south and on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) Site 2 (Sandstone) • There are records of 11 threatened and priority flora species within a 30 km radius of the application area, one of which is found on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) • The nearest recorded threated or priority flora species to the application area is *Triglochin protuberans*, a Priority 3 species, located approximately 730 m to the southwest (GIS Database) Site 2 (Yalgoo) • There are records of 12 threatened and priority flora species within a 30 km radius of the application area, one of which is found on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) • The nearest recorded threated or priority flora species to the application area is *Baeckea* sp. London Bridge (M.E. Trudgen 5393), a Priority 3 species, located approximately 200 m to the south and on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) Site 4 (Wiluna)

Characteristic	Details
	• There are records of 21 threatened and priority flora species within a 30 km radius of the application area, one of which is found on the same soil type as the application area • The nearest recorded threated or priority flora species to the application area is *C. mirabilis*, a Priority 1 species, located approximately 320 metres to the north and on the same soil type as the application area (GIS Database) No threatened or priority flora species were identified within the application area during the 2023 vegetation assessment undertaken by GHD, however it was noted that they surveys were undertaken outside of the flowering season for several potentially-occurring priority flora species and they therefore would not have been able to be identified, if present (GHD, 2023a).
Ecological communities	The northernmost part of the Site 2 (Yalgoo) application area is located within a mapped threatened ecological community (TEC), Yalgoo vegetation complexes (banded ironstone foundation). There are no known threatened or priority ecological communities mapped within the other application areas. The nearest known threatened or priority ecological communities to the other sites are (GIS Database): • Site 1 (Meekatharra): Austin land system, located 7.5 km to the northwest • Site 3 (Sandstone): Black range north calcrete groundwater assemblage type of Raeside palaeodrainage on Lake Mason Station, located 29.3 km to the northeast • Site 4 (Wiluna): Wiluna BF calcrete groundwater assemblage type of Carey palaeodrainage on Millbillillie Station, located 7.5 kmto the southeast.
Fauna	There are several records of threatened and priority fauna species within a 30 km radius of the application areas (GIS Database). No threatened or priority fauna species were identified within the application areas during the 2023 surveys undertaken by GHD (GHD, 2023a; 2023b) Targeted surveys for *Idiosoma clypteatum* (northern shield-backed trapdoor spider) burrows were undertaken at each site, however no burrows or individuals were identified within the application areas (GHD, 2023a, GHD, 2023b).

A.2. Flora analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)*	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Site 1 (Meekatharra)							
Ptilotus luteolus	Priority 3	Unknown	Y	N	8	20	N
Euploca mitchellii	Priority 1	Unknown	Y	Y	16	4	N
Menkea draboides	Priority 3	Y	Y	N	7.9	8	N
Drummondita miniata	Priority 3	Y	Y	Y	0.7	25	N
Site 2 (Yalgoo)							
Goodenia neogoodenia	Priority 4	N	Y	N	3	20	Y
Gunniopsis divisa	Priority 3	Y	Y	Y	14	28	Y
Site 4 (Wiluna)							
Ptilotus luteolus	Priority 3	Unknown	Y	Y	2.6	20	N
Calandrinia mirabilis	Priority 1	Unknown	Y	Y	0.3	7	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

* Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

A.3. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (30 km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Site 1 (Meekatharra)						
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	Y	100 m	4	Y
Falco hypoleucos (Grey falcon)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Aphelocephala leucopsis (Southern whiteface)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Sminthopsis longicaudata (Long-tailed dunnart)	P4	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Idiosoma clypeatum (Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider)	P3	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Site 2 (Yalgoo)						
Falco hypoleucos (Grey falcon)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	Y	1.15 km	1	Y
Idiosoma clypeatum (Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider)	P3	Y	Y	29.1 km	17	Y
Site 3 (Sandstone)						
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	Y	160 m	1	Y
Falco hypoleucos (Grey falcon)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Aphelocephala leucopsis (Southern whiteface)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Sminthopsis longicaudata (Long-tailed dunnart)	P4	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Polytelis alexandrae (Princess parrot)	P4/VU	N	Y	540 m	1	Y
Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl)	VU	Y	N	10.6 km	2	Y
Idiosoma clypeatum (Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider)	P3	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Site 4 (Wiluna)						
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	Y	29 km	1	Y
Aphelocephala leucopsis (Southern whiteface)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Sminthopsis longicaudata (Long-tailed dunnart)	P4	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl)	VU	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y
Idiosoma clypeatum (Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider)	P3	Y	Y	>30 km	0	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority, OS: other specially protected

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The areas proposed to be cleared do not contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants. Flora and fauna surveys undertaken in 2023 did not identify the presence of any conservation significant flora or fauna in any of the application areas (GHD, 2023a; 2023b). However, the surveys were undertaken outside of potentially occurring priority flora species' flowering seasons and would not have been adequate to identify their presence (GHD, 2023b).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1 above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain critical or significant habitat for conservation significant fauna. The mulga woodland plains habitat at Site 3 (Sandstone) may provide dispersal habitat for *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) and the species is known to occur in the area, however no individuals or mounds were recorded during the on-site survey and there is a lack of suitable soils and organic matter for mound building (GHD, 2023a).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act. No conservation significant flora species were identified in the on-site surveys, (GHD, 2023a, GHD, 2023b).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: One TEC is mapped as occurring on the edge of the Site 2 (Yalgoo) application area (GIS Database), however an on-site survey determined that the vegetation and landforms in the survey area were not representative of this TEC (GHD, 2023b).	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1 above.*
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia and contains over 95 per cent of the original native vegetation cover (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area is 35 kilometres (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: One minor non-perennial drainage line intersects the Site 4 (Wiluna) application area and flows south towards Lake Violet, located 5.3 kilometres to the south (GIS Database). The applicant has proposed to limit clearing in the area of the drainage line to 0.11 hectares for the establishment of one pole pad and a four-metre-wide access track only. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2 above.*
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are not highly susceptible to erosion and the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation (GIS Database). Potential land degradation and erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a soil management clearing condition.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Lake Violet is located 5.3 kilometres south of the Site 4 (Wiluna) application area. One minor non-perennial drainage line within the Site 4 (Wiluna) application area flows into Lake Violet (GIS Database). Given that the applicant has proposed to limit clearing in the area of the drainage line to 0.11 hectares, the proposed clearing is not likely to increase groundwater salinity, noting the type and condition of vegetation proposed to be cleared and extent of surrounding vegetation in the local area (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2 above.*
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding areas do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database). The application areas and their surrounds are not mapped as a floodplain area or being at risk of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering the location of Site 2 (Yalgoo), the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Considering the location of Site 1 (Meekatharra), Site 3 (Sandstone), and Site 4 (Wiluna), the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation

Photos from the flora and vegetation surveys undertaken by GHD in 2023 (GHD, 2023a; 2023b).

Photo 1: VT06 vegetation type

Photo 2: VT07 vegetation type

Photo 3: VT10 vegetation type

Photo 4: VT11 vegetation type

Photo 5: VT12 vegetation type

Photo 6: VT16 vegetation type

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- FPM Extent of Flooding (DWER-017)
- FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020)
- FPM 1 in 100 (1%) AEP Floodway and Flood Fringe Area (DWER-014)

- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- Hydrography WA 250K – Surface Waterbodies (GA 2015)
- Hydrography WA 250K – Surface Water Lines (GA 2015)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RiWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RiWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems (DPIRD-064)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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